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INSECT PEST SURVEY

Bureau of Entomology, U. S. D. A.
and
State Agricultural Experiment Stations
cooperating

Special Report 3.

March 22, 1921.

MEXICAN BEAN BEETLE

The Mexican bean beetle is reported by Dr. W. E. Hinds, Entomologist, Alabama State Board of Agriculture and Neal F. Howard, Bureau of Entomology, U. S. D. A. to be emerging in considerable numbers from its hibernation quarters around Birmingham, Ala. From the numbers already in evidence it is apparent that at least 20 per cent of last year's beetles have successfully passed the winter at Birmingham. In view of the fact that a 4 per cent successful hibernation of the boll-weevil represents a serious infestation, the probable second brood of the bean beetle will be extensive and injurious.

At the time of writing, early garden beans are coming through the soil at Birmingham, and ample food will be afforded for the first brood of larvae, unless the hibernated adults destroy the crop. If this becomes the condition, a serious and widespread migration may be expected, with the result that the infested area may reach well into Georgia and Tennessee by the end of the season. Entomologists should be prepared to report at once any outbreaks of this nature. Insect Pest Survey Reporters may telegraph such reports collect to the Bureau of Entomology,

Mr. J. E. Graf, In Charge of Field Work for the Bureau on this beetle says: "Field beans and cowpeas may be planted as usual in the infested district, bearing in mind the fact that serious damage to the crop may be expected. Since the bean beetle is not known to breed upon velvet beans, they may be substituted for other soiling crops with the expectation that they will be immune to attack. No more market beans should be planted that can, if necessary, be carried at complete loss."

